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Our close relations with the Saudis were temporarily strained during the month by the action of a New York State court to block Saudi Government bank accounts pending the hearing of a legal suit against Saudi Arabia. The suit was subsequently dismissed following presentation of the Saudi claim to sovereign immunity. U.S.-Saudi joint military projects continued to move forward during the month although no new development occurred with respect to the proposed sale of the U.S. fighter aircraft to the Royal Saudi Air Force

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I. FOREIGN RELATIONS

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the Saudis were able to frustrate an attempt by Arab extremists to pass a resolution condemning U.S. bombing raids on North Vietnam without at the same time equally condemning Vietcong terrorism in the south. In the end neutrally-worded resolutions were passed on both these issues.

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Diplomatically, Faysal attempted, unsuccessfully, in both Cairo and Casablanca to obtain Arab statements condemning Indian aggression on Pakistan and calling for implementation of the UN resolutions for self-determination in Kashmir. The Saudis have also urged both the UK and the U.S. to be more forthcoming in their support of Pakistan. In this connection, the Saudis have argued that failure of Pakistan's Western friends to help it will leave Pakistan dependent upon the Chinese Communists, thus further weakening Ayyub KHAN's ties with the West. As a result of these efforts Saudi Arabia, rarely active in the foreign policy field, found itself winning honorable mention in Ayyub Khan's September 23 speech along with other supporters of Pakistan such as Red China and Indonesia.

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Judging from press reports, most senior Government officials continue to be preoccupied with drawing up and justifying their budget requests for the new fiscal year beginning in November. Ford Foundation experts in Riyadh are also continuing to work on the proposed Five Year Plan for economic development.

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III. U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS.

A. Yemen

With the improvement in Saudi-UAR relations following the cease-fire in Yemen and the reduction of tension along the Saudi-Yemeni border, Saudi pressures on the U.S. Government, which had reached a peak in mid-August, for

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evidences of our determination to carry out our commitment to defend Saudi Arabia's integrity abruptly ceased.

The visit to Jidda September 2-4 of Mr. Harrison SYMMES, Deputy Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State, on his way to Aden and Yemen and again on his return September 9 provided an opportunity for an exchange of views about Yemen with Saudi Foreign Ministry officials and with the Yemeni Royalist Foreign Minister. Both Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Mas'ud and Royalist Foreign Minister Shami shared Mr. Symmes expressions of concern about the potentially harmful effects of Communist Bloc influence in Yemen.

B. Kendall Case

Our close relations with the Saudis were temporarily strained during the month by the KENDALL Case. In late August a New York State court took action to block all Saudi Government bank accounts in New York pending hearing of a suit brought by Mr. Thomas Kendall for compensation arising out of his arrest and the destruction of his amphibious aircraft in the Gulf of Aqaba by Saudi troops in 1960. The Saudis reacted angrily to this action and, apparently confused by the separation of powers inherent in the U.S. federal system, objected to Department of State suggestions that they go through proper legal procedures to establish their claim to sovereign immunity. A court order September 9 vacating the attachment of Saudi Government funds considerably lowered Saudi tempers and the whole matter was closed September 20 when the suit against King Faysal and other Saudi individuals named was dismissed.

Ramifications of the Kendall case included Saudi expressions of concern that the suit was being used by unfriendly groups in the U.S. to generate bad publicity for Saudi Arabia and hints that the Saudi Government might be obliged to move its dollar deposits out of the U.S. to avoid such actions in the future. The blocking of the bank account of the Saudi delegation to the UN additionally raised the possibility of a general Arab protest against violation of the Saudi delegation's diplomatic immunity. The incident received no publicity locally, however, and most Saudis appear to be unaware of it.

C. Military Projects

U.S.-Saudi joint military projects continued to move forward during the month. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued its preparations to sign a contract with an architect-engineering consortium for design of the military facilities to be constructed at Tabuk and Khawis Mushayt. The HIRAN survey of the Persian Gulf and aerial photography of the Saudi shoreline between Dammam and the Saudi-Kuwait Neutral Zone got underway in mid-September. The work is being done by the 1370 Photo Mapping Wing, USAF, with support from the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia and Aramco. Results of the

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survey will be used to help determine the median line in the Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

No new developments took place with respect to the proposed sale of U.S. fighter aircraft to the Royal Saudi Air Force. Although Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan informed us in August the RSAF wished to buy the Lockheed package of F-104G interceptors and related ground equipment, no final decision has yet been reached by the Supreme Defense Council. Meanwhile UK and French aircraft salesmen have not abandoned their efforts to sell the Lightning or the Mirage. It is probable that the Saudis will attempt to keep the three producers guessing on their final choice as long as possible in an effort to secure the best terms.

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D. Cultural Relations

An attempt by the Embassy to reopen the question of establishing a USIS Cultural Center in Riyadh was unsuccessful. Deputy Foreign Minister Sayyaf told Charge SEELYE September 2 that the King was adamantly opposed to the Center being opened in Riyadh at this time. We have also learned that UK plans for stationing a British Council representative in Riyadh, principally to deal with questions involving British secondary-school teachers recruited by the Saudi Ministry of Education, have likewise fallen through.

A visit to Jidda September 9-16 by Dr. Abd al-Aziz SA'ID, Chairman of the Department of International Relations at American University, Washington, D.C. and a Department of State American specialist grantee, was highly successful given the time of year and the absence of many Ministry of Education and other senior Saudi officials. Syrian born Sa'id, who speaks fluent Arabic and has a wide number of acquaintances and former students in the Kingdom, was able to make a number of useful contacts during his week-long stay. In addition to a public lecture, in Arabic, on "The Problems of Development in Under-Developed Areas", Dr. Sa'id was interviewed on Radio Mecca's English service and met with members of the Constituent Committee of the Abd al-Aziz University in Jidda to discuss their plans for that embryo institution.

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E. Press Commentary on U.S.

While outright editorial attacks on the U.S. policy in Vietnam have been rare, several press commentators have found occasion to criticize U.S. bombing raids on North Vietnam and to suggest that the U.S. reasons for staying in Vietnam are unconvincing. More direct criticism of the U.S. role in Vietnam is presumably inhibited by the writers' awareness that attacks on U.S. policy in Vietnam might not only be considered embarrassing by the Saudi Government but perhaps might be interpreted by the Government censor as favorable to Communism and North Vietnam.

Several political commentaries echoed the London Daily Telegraph allegations that the CIA had prior knowledge of the Indian plans to attack Pakistan and had somehow aided and abetted the Indian action. Some of the more fanatical Saudi writers vaguely suggested the existence of a Christian-Zionist-Hindu-Imperialist plot against Muslim Pakistan. Other writers have either misunderstood or deliberately misinterpreted the U.S. position toward the conflict and criticized the U.S. and other Western allies of Pakistan for failing to come to its aid. At least one commentator thought that the U.S. had deliberately provoked the Kashmir fighting in order to teach both Pakistan and India a lesson and to involve Communist China in a war in South Asia while the U.S. prepared to attack it in East Asia.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

Brooks Wrampelmeier

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Second Secretary of Embassy

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